

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UN COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING - FEBRUARY 23

1. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES STATEMENTS BEFORE THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING ON FEBRUARY 23.

2. MAURICE BERTRAND, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT (JIU), PROPOSED STANDARDIZATION OF UN PLANNING ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL EVALUATION. BERTRAND CALLED ATTENTION TO GAP BETWEEN AMBITIOUS GUIDELINES IN LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS AND MODEST OUTPUT OF SECRETARIAT, URGING THAT SCOPE OF PROJECTS BE DRASTICALLY REDUCED. BERTRAND PROPOSED: (A) ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT RESEARCH UNIT ON PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING, CONSISTING OF ABOUT 15 PEOPLE, WHICH WOULD APPLY AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ALL EXISTING PLANNING ACTIVITIES IN THE UN SYSTEM. THIS WOULD HELP ECOSOC ESTABLISH PRIORITIES; (B) ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNAL EVALUATION STAFFS IN ALL MAJOR UN BODIES. BERTRAND EMPHASIZED THE FACT THAT EVALUATION IS A NECESSARY COMPLEMENT TO PROGRAMMING. HE SAID ALL JIU INSPECTORS AGREED THAT JIU COULD PERFORM EXTERNAL EVALUATION FUNCTION BY GIVING ADVICE ON METHODOLOGY TO INTERNAL EVALUATION STAFFS AND COMPARING RESULTS AMONG AGENCIES; AND (C) REPLACEMENT OF ADVISORY SERVICE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

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IN UN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (ESA)

WITH AN INTER-AGENCY UNIT, DRAWING PERSONNEL FROM MAJOR SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, TO ESTABLISH DIRECT LINK AMONG NATIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES, UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, AND UNDP.

3. MADAGASCAR DEL URGED SIMPLIFICATION OF UN STRUCTURE, BUT OPPOSED MAJOR CHANGES IN UNCTAD OR UNIDO. HE SAID UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THROUGH ECOSOC, SHOULD EXERCISE MORE INFLUENCE OVER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, EMPHASIZING THE "DEMOCRATIC PROCESS" OF PERMITTING SMALL COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN UN DECISION-MAKING.

4. POLISH DEL COMPLAINED THAT VIEWS OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, ALTHOUGH SOCIALISTS CONTRIBUTED ONE-FIFTH OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES. HE SUGGESTED THAT JIU COULD HELP REDUCE THE PROLIFERATION OF UN BODIES AND THE RESULTANT OVERLAPPING AND DUPLICATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT SUMMER SESSIONS OF ECOSOC MIGHT ALTERNATE BETWEEN REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN ONE YEAR AND REVIEW OF "CONCEPTUAL" ACTIVITIES IN THE NEXT AND CALLED FOR A CLEARER DELINEATION BETWEEN OPERATIONAL AND CONCEPTUAL ACTIVITIES. HE CITED UNDP AND UNICEF AS THE TWO MOST SUCCESSFUL UN AGENCIES.

5. ECUADORIAN DEL ECHOED POLISH THESIS THAT FUNCTIONS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ECOSOC SHOULD BE MORE CLEARLY DEFINED, POINTING TO THE DUPLICATION BETWEEN DEBATES IN ECOSOC AND IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. WHILE RECOGNIZING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUPS USED AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, HE OPPOSED INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF SUCH GROUPS, POINTING OUT THAT THIS WOULD LEAD TO LOSS OF FLEXIBILITY. ECUADORIAN DEL ALSO PRAISED THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET MACHINERY, WHICH RECOMMENDED STRENGTHENING THE COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND COORDINATION (CPC).

6. MOROCCAN DEL, URGING CAUTION IN RESTRUCTURING, SUPPORTED PARA 12 OF EXPERTS' REPORT WHICH SAYS UN MUST REFLECT PRESENT REALITIES IN ORDER TO MEET CURRENT CHALLENGES AND OPPOSED EXCESSIVE CENTRALIZATION. LIKE THE POLISH AND ECUADORIAN DELEGATIONS, HE URGED THAT THE AGENDA OF EACH SESSION OF ECOSOC BE SHORT ENOUGH SO THAT THE QUESTIONS COULD BE CONSIDERED

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IN SUFFICIENT DEPTH.

7. HUNGARIAN DEL ADDED LITTLE TO WHAT HAD BEEN SAID BY THE POLE, AGREEING WITH THE ANALYSIS OF THE EXPERT GROUP, IF NOT WITH ALL ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. LIKE THE POLISH DEL, HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR POLITICAL WILL AND UNANIMITY IN DECISIONS ON RESTRUCTURING OF THE UN.

8. MR. MOSTAFA KAMAL TOLBA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNEP, CALLED ATTENTION TO THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS AND POINTED TO THE NUMEROUS COORDINATION TOOLS IN UNEP, INSISTING THAT THERE WAS NO OVERLAP BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION BOARD (ECB) AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION (ACC). HE URGED THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSION BETWEEN DUPLICATION AND COMPLEMENTARITY. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE INDIAN DEL, TOLBA INSISTED THAT OPERATIONS SHOULD NOT BE TOTALLY SEPARATED FROM RESEARCH.

9. AMB MILLS OF JAMAICA EMPHASIZED THAT RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE IS ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL AND HE DISCOURAGED EFFORTS TO DEPOLITICIZE UN BODIES. HE DISAGREED WITH MCNAMARA WHO SAID ONE SOURCE OF IBRD STRENGTH IS ITS NON-POLITICAL CHARACTER. HE URGED THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE CREATION OF MACHINERY FOR CONTINUOUS REVIEW OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE UN SYSTEM.

10. MR. STANOVNIK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (ECE), DELIVERED A LENGTHY STATEMENT DESCRIBING IN SOME DETAIL THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBORDINATE BODIES OF ECE. HE POINTED OUT THAT THEY WERE NOT DELIBERATIVE BODIES BUT REAL WORKING GROUPS OF EXPERTS WHO PERFORMED PRACTICAL STANDARDIZATION TASKS. HE DESCRIBED THE WORK OF THE ECE SECRETARIAT AS POLICY-ORIENTED RESEARCH IN SUPPORT OF THESE EXPERT GROUPS. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF PREDICTION OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES BY THE SECRETARIAT IN ADDITION TO THE OBVIOUS NEED FOR ANALYSIS OF PAST ACTIVITIES. STANOVNIK EXPLAINED THE NOTION OF MULTI-LEVEL DECISIONMAKING, POINTING OUT THAT CERTAIN TYPES OF DECISIONS ARE BETTER MADE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. STANOVNIK CONCLUDED BY SUGGESTING THAT ECE ACTIVITIES SHOULD IN FUTURE FOCUS ON NEEDS OF EUROPEAN

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DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, SO THAT RESULTS WOULD BE MORE USEFUL TO OTHER REGIONAL COMMISSIONS.
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